

ELMER LEANDER PENROD  
AND MARY ISABELL WRIGHT

Elmer Leander Penrod was born October 26, 1872, in Provo, son of Abraham Penrod, who was born July 12, 1844, in Hancock County, Iowa, and died December 26, 1893, in Wallsburg, and Ellen Elizabeth Durfee, who was born March 18, 1848, at New Canton, Pike County, Illinois, and died May 6, 1925, in Wallsburg. Elmer died February 19, 1955, at American Fork, Utah. He married Mary Isabell Wright on December 5, 1894, in the Salt Lake Temple. She was born November 13, 1876, at Charleston, Utah. Her mother was Mary Jane Baum, born April 25, 1854, at Provo, and died October 14, 1928, at Provo. Mary died October 5, 1952.

Elmer attended the Brigham Young Academy in 1888. He fulfilled a Southern States mission in 1898. They made their first home in Wallsburg, next in Charleston, then in American Fork. After 1917 they lived on a farm in Declo, Idaho. He held the office of High Priest in 1936. They retired in 1945 and moved to Burley, Idaho.

Mary Isabell lived on the Provo River three miles from Charleston, with her parents and 15 brothers and sisters. She was the third child and could not attend school regularly in Charleston because she was needed at home to help with the younger children.

Her father farmed with an ox team when they first moved to Heber Valley. Mary yoked them up and drove them many times. She plowed fields and drove them to town. She herded sheep and handled a milk route for 1½ years.

Her father was crippled because of an accident when he was a boy in England. Doctors knew very little about bone setting

978

WALLSBURG BIOGRAPHIES 979

then. When he was able to get about again he was determined that no animal or person that he knew about would be a cripple if he could help it. He practiced on every chicken, dog and horse in the area that had had an accident. People for miles around heard about his talent and came to him for assistance. Mary was his right-hand girl in helping him and thus she became a community nurse. She helped deliver many babies. She often arrived before the doctor could get there and then cared for the mothers afterward. She was called to a good many homes in emergencies. She came very close to death from diphtheria after nursing a nearby family, whom they found later had the disease.

She enjoyed working in her garden and won many prizes at county fairs for farm displays of vegetables and seeds.

She died in the Salt Lake LDS Hospital after falling and breaking her leg. Both are buried in American Fork Cemetery.

Their children are: Eunice, Owen Keller, Dean Juan, Vera, Lavon, Verland, Lyman, Zella, Elmer Allen and Elwood Levan.

## LUKE PROVOST II AND JULIA ANN WHEELER PROVOST



Luke Provost was born January 2, 1809, at Pompton Morris, New Jersey, a son of Luke Provost I and Catherine Hennion. Married Julia Ann Wheeler. Died March 13, 1863, St. Marys, Iowa.

Julia Ann Wheeler was born September 23, 1815, Newark, New Jersey, daughter of James and Sarah Wheeler. Died June 4, 1881, in Midway.

Luke Provost and Julia Ann and their family of small children emigrated to Utah on December 18, 1855 or 1856 with the William B. Hodgett Company, where they could live their religion the way they desired to live it.

Luke was president of the LDS branch while he was in Newark, New Jersey. He had great faith in the priesthood of God, also had great healing influence in administering to the sick. Faith in God and in his fellow men was a characteristic of him and of his children. His faith in some of his friends was soon shaken, for he had left property and seven trunks of clothes, with what he thought was a friend. In 1862 he and his family went back to New Jersey to visit and claim his property. Arriving there safely he found the so-called friend had sold everything and left the country. This was a great shock to him and his family. Being quite well-off for those times he decided to load his wagon with flour and return to Utah. This he did and got as far as St. Marys, Iowa, where he took pneumonia and died on March 13, 1863. He was buried in St. Marys, Iowa, ten miles down the river

from Nebraska City, Iowa, leaving behind him his beloved wife and five living children and five having died before they had left Newark, New Jersey, for Utah.

Julia Ann filled with grief at being left alone, was determined to carry on and serve the Lord in the best way she could. She decided to go on to Utah with other wagon trains.

Jim Provost being the oldest boy took over the responsibility of getting the family back to their home in Provo. He became a man overnight. In due time they arrived back to their home in Provo. Julia Ann sold her home in Provo and moved to Midway with friends and neighbors. They started to Midway from Provo, when word came that the Indians were on the war path. The man with the other family climbed up on the wheel of the wagon to get his gun. Pulling it toward him it discharged and killed him. They hurried and wrapped him in a quilt and buried him before the Indians arrived. They then went on their way again with hearts very sad but, with courage to continue, landing in Midway. Julia Ann and her young children were among the first pioneers to settle in Midway. They built their first home in the lower settlement known as Stringtown. Their nearest neighbors were John Clayburn and Mark Smith. They later moved into Fort Midway and Julia Ann lived on there in her log cabin until her death in 1881. She kept up her courage and faith in the gospel until the end, and through a rich and useful life won the love and respect of all who knew her.

Children of Luke Provost II and Julia Ann Wheeler:

Mrs. David (Julia Ann) Van Wagoner;  
Charles Bauldin, died in youth;  
Aaron Wheeler, died in youth;  
James Wheeler, married Clara Estelle Love;

William Henry, died in youth;  
John Parcel, died in youth;  
David Woodruff, married Clarissa Van Wagoner;  
Emma Lowesia, died in youth;  
Mrs. James (Sarah Catharina) Ross;  
Luke Elisha, married Ellis Jane Holfeltz.